

Weekly Word – For Sunday, August 29, 2021

Worship this week:

This Sunday in worship our scripture text is from James in which he urges us ‘to be doers of the word, not merely hearers.’ Special Music will be from Sarah Plum our new Choir Director. Worship is at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary with Coffee Fellowship to follow at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. For now we are asking people to mask when in worship. Join us!

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/cLXMZ829QPE>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week:

Sun., Aug 29	9:30 am	In-Person Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
Tues., Aug 31	9:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Wed., Sept 1	6:00 pm	Jubilee Ringers
	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thur., Sept 2	9:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Sun., Sept 5	9:30 am	In-Person Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall and Livestream
	10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM

Rally Day & Parent Meeting: All parents of children pre-school through Grade 12, are asked to attend an orientation session on **Rally Day, September 12, at 11:30 am**, following worship and Sunday School. This is a very important meeting and required for all families of confirmands. Please be sure to attend. First Congregational Church takes its responsibility to educate children very seriously. There needs to be a strong connection between church education and family life.

New Church App: The church has a new mobile phone app. You can download it from the church website or by scanning the QR Code found on a flyer on the sign-up table and Facebook.

Tools For School Thanks: Over 300 children were given school supplies at the recent event here at church. A huge thank you to all who donated supplies and/or volunteered at this amazing event.

Sunday School Teachers Needed: The present plan is for Sunday School to be in-person starting in fall, 2021. As always, we need teachers to volunteer to teach. As in years past, volunteers will not teach every Sunday but on a rotating basis with members of a team. To volunteer, please use the link on the church website (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-sunday>) or sign the list on the sign-up table. For more information, please contact Pastor Stacy.

Adult Bible Study: Adult Bible Study will resume in the fall on **Wednesday afternoons, 1:00–2:30 pm**. The first session is **September 15**. Presently the plan is to meet in-person in the Youth Room. Please indicate your interest by signing the list at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-adult>

Church Book Club: Enjoy reading? Enjoy chatting about books? Enjoy just chatting sometimes? Well, you are warmly welcome to become part of the First Congregational Church Book Club. The Book Club reads a wide variety of books, sometimes deeply profound books and other times just fun books. Read the whole book? Great. Not quite finished with the book? Great. Come be together and puzzle together some gleanings from the book. The Book Club will meet at on **Thurs, Sept 23, at 3:00 pm at the church**. The September book is *Lake of Tears* by Mary Logue. Copies are available in the church office. Questions? Please contact Jan Johnson, Rebecca Ferguson, or Bonnie JonesWitthuhn.

Celebration of Life: The family of Betty Church (June 15, 1927–July 23, 2020) invites you to celebrate her life at her “After Party.” Betty wanted her life to be celebrated in Academy Award style, hence an After Party. Please join us at the Glen Park Pavilion, 335 W. Park Street, River Falls, WI, on **Sunday, September 5, between 1:00 and 4:00 pm.** We look forward to seeing you then!

Wednesday School Workers Needed: Wednesday School begins on **October 6.** We need adult volunteers, drivers to transport children from school to church, and people to provide snacks. Please consider volunteering. Please sign the list at church or use the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-wednesday18>. For more information, please contact Pastor Stacy.

Wednesday School Registrations: All children who will be in kindergarten through Grade 5 in the fall of 2021, are invited to participate in Wednesday School. Registration and permission forms are available on the church website (<https://firstchurchrf.org/grow/pages/sunday-school>) and in the church office. It is important to have advance registration in order to be adequately prepared for students. Wednesday School begins October 6. For COVID-mitigation, all participants will wear masks. Please contact Pastor Stacy with questions.

Softball News: This is sadly the last message of the 2021 season, but it brings fantastic news! We are the **Champions of the 2021 Church League Softball ending our record at 8:1.** This is quite the accomplishment as our team’s age ranges from 14 years old to late 60s and skill levels varies. As one player put it, playing off our church’s motto “We welcome you no matter where you are in your softball journey.” I cherish this team because we all laugh, encourage, tease, recommend ideas to help one another through rough patches, praise highlights, and step in wherever needed since most week’s lineup has changes due to players schedules. It’s an awesome group of people and friends! **Thank you to our wonderful players, our fantastic fans, and families who support our desire to play softball.** May you all have blessed rest of the year. See you all next year for the 2022 season! If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Thurston at (715)781-3626 or Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945.

Church Yoga: Jan Hansen's church yoga group meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the church Fellowship Hall from 9:00-10:00 am and via Zoom. Please call the office to receive the Zoom link.

Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed: Coffee Fellowship is back! Please sign up to help host and serve. Everything you need is provided, you just need to get there a little early to get things ready, serve and do a quick clean up. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-coffee>

Liturgists Needed: Please sign up to be a Sunday liturgist. You will lead us in the Call to Worship and a Scripture text. The bulletin will be sent via email to you on Thursday. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-liturgist>

Welcomers Needed: Please sign up to be a welcomer on Sunday morning before the worship service. One person is needed for at the bottom of the stairs at the 3rd Street Entrance. Please arrive 20 minutes prior to the worship service. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-welcomers>

Altar Table Flowers: Please sign up to provide flowers for the altar for Sunday worship. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-altar>

Funeral Help Needed: One of the many important ways we as a church community support one another is by serving meals to families after a Funeral or Memorial Service. Two people who have been instrumental in this effort are Yvonne Benson and JoAnn Lentz. They are wishing to retire so we are hoping to have new people step up to fill their shoes. We are also in need of people to help work at funeral luncheons. Please consider being a part of this ministry by contacting the church office.

Sign Up Sheets: All current sign-up sheets are on the website. Click on “Connect” and then “Sign Ups/Forms.”

Free Money for Church Ministries: The church has created an Amazon Smile account through which the church can receive a portion of the price of each purchase you make through Amazon. It is important to know that you need to do two things for the church to receive this money. First, go to Amazon Smile by typing in smile.amazon.com and then add First Congregational Church River Falls to your Amazon Smile. Second, every time you order you must order through your Smile account by going to smile.amazon.com. Once you do this, the church will receive 0.5% of each eligible order. Please contact the church office if you have questions.

Paying It Forward: Many have asked how they can help share their stimulus money to help bless others. Here are two concrete ways:

- **Compassion Fund** – All money stays in the River Falls area and benefits families hit hardest by COVID and the economic downturn.
- **Building Fund** – Each month the church still needs to pay the bank \$3300. The Building Fund enables us to pay our mortgage until we can hold a Building Fund Campaign after COVID.

Finances: THANK YOU to all of you for your support of the mission and ministry of our church through your tithes, offerings, and gifts. Your generosity empowers our church! Please be sure to sign up for e-giving or mail/drop off your gifts. There is also now an option to give online via our church website.

	Aug 22, 2021	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,561	\$ 328,824
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 314,908

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

People:

- For Matthew Bylander who graduates from Army Prime Power School August 26 and who will be deployed to Saudi Arabia, thank you for your service
- For the birth of Thomas Jay Crosby first grandson to Allen and Dianne Barnes (11 pounds!), may he bring great joy
- For our Three Peach Queens—Deb Hoffman, Laura Miller and Diane Welsh who helped organize and distribute all our peaches!
- For the weekly Mini Farmers Market in our Fellowship Hall when people (Roland Roe and others) bring in their fresh veggies for us to enjoy, bless you
- For the birth of Ella Suzanne Middlestaedt, new and first grandchild to Ann and Scott Jameson
- For not just one but two new Youth Ministers—Alex and Sarah Plum who began in late August—thanks be to God!
- For Bailey Plackner who is recently engaged to Alex Boyer and is planning a July 2022 wedding, may you grow in love
- For the nearly 190 million people vaccinated so far in this country, thanks be to God

Do you have other upcoming news and celebrations to share with the congregation? Graduations? Birthday and Anniversary celebrations? Please email them to office@firstchurchrf.org by Wednesday of each week to be included in the Weekly Word which is sent out on Thursdays.

Prayer: Prayer connects us with God and our neighbors. If ever there were a time we need connection, it is now. Each week in the bulletin there is a prayer list of people, situations and thanksgivings that is also sent out by email to help people in their prayer life. You can sign up by contacting the office at office@firstchurchrf.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday – 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Friday – Closed

Church Staff Contact:

Pastor: Chris Myers - chris@firstchurchrf.org

Office/Finance: Missy Luedtke - missy@firstchurchrf.org

Education: Stacy Johnson Myers - stacy@firstchurchrf.org

Mission: Dave Ostendorf - dave@firstchurchrf.org

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Building: Dave Mountain - focusfan2001@yahoo.com

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